

Application No. 09/635,011
Response to Office Action

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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 11 has been amended to even more clearly recite the feature of the present invention whereby the mail creation means (of the communication terminal) creates an electronic mail to be sent to an addressee, and whereby the transmitting means (of the service center) transmits the electronic mail with the regional image information (which includes at least one of the stored images) attached thereto to the addressee, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 16, lines 17-23 and page 18, line 18 to page 19, line 8.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 11 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 11, 13-15, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US 2002/0171581 ("Sheynblat et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, a radio communication system is provided which

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comprises a communication terminal and a service center connected to the communication terminal via a radio channel, and mail is sent from the communication terminal to an addressee (i.e., a recipient of the mail) via the service center.

More specifically, as recited in claim 11, the communication terminal comprises: mail creation means for creating an electronic mail to be sent to an addressee; detecting means for detecting a current position of the communication terminal; and transmission means for attaching position information indicating the current position detected by the detecting means to the electronic mail and transmitting the electronic mail with the position information attached thereto to the service center.

As recited in claim 11, the service center comprises: storing means for storing regional image information specific to positions of the communication terminal, wherein the regional image information comprises stored images specific to the positions of the communication terminal; reading means for reading from the storing means the regional image information, comprising at least one of the stored images, corresponding to the position information attached to the electronic mail and attaching the regional image information (including at least one of the stored images) to the electronic mail; and means for transmitting the electronic mail with the regional image information attached thereto to the addressee.

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Thus, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 11, electronic mail is created at the communication terminal to be sent to the addressee (recipient of the mail). The electronic mail is first transmitted to the service center with position information (information indicating the current position detected by the detecting means) attached thereto. At the service center, regional image information comprising a plurality of images is stored, and based on the position information attached to received email, at least one of the images is read out. Then, the electronic mail with the regional image information (including at least one of the stored images) attached thereto is transmitted by the service center to the addressee.

It is respectfully submitted that Sheynblat et al does not at all disclose, teach or even remotely suggest a service center that receives electronic mail, attaches regional image information to the electronic mail, and transmits the electronic mail with the regional image information (including at least one stored image) attached thereto to an addressee intended by the communication terminal.

As recognized by the Examiner, Sheynblat et al discloses various communication terminals, such as client 408, GPS receivers 102B, 103B, 104B, or client unit 119, that access and provide position information to a Web server, such as server 404

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or web server 118. In addition, as recognized by the Examiner, Sheynblat et al discloses that the web server may compile various demographic and usage pattern information in the form of charts and graphs.

However, none of the communication terminals of Sheynblat et al originate an electronic mail and attach position information to the electronic mail, in the manner of the claimed present invention. In Sheynblat et al, the communication terminals do provide position information to the web server, but this position information is not attached to an electronic mail to be sent to an addressee. In addition, in Sheynblat et al, although the web server can produce graphical representations of demographic or usage data (which arguably could be considered to be "regional image information"), these images are not attached to an electronic mail sent by a communication terminal and are not transmitted with an electronic mail to an addressee set for the electronic mail at the communication terminal, in the manner of the claimed present invention.

In more detail, according to Sheynblat et al, position information, such as GPS data or information that is inputted at a communication terminal, may be transmitted to a server in order to access location-based information from the server. The location-based information of Sheynblat et al can be many kinds of information (see Table 1 on page 10), but in any case the

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location-based information is information that is desired at the communication terminal, not information that is desired to be attached to an electronic mail and sent elsewhere. See paragraphs [0118], [0121] and [0128] of Sheynblat et al, each of which describes providing location based information to the client that initially sent the position information to the server. In addition, in Sheynblat et al, the position information that is transmitted to the server is not attached to an electronic mail that is to be sent to an addressee. That is, the location-based information of Sheynblat et al is information desired by the terminal that transmits the position information, and there is no electronic mail to which the position information is attached that is to be sent to a addressee. In fact, in Sheynblat et al there is no other destination for the position information than the server, and Sheynblat et al does not disclose, teach or suggest that any information other than the position information is sent to the server together with the position information.

Indeed, paragraph [0113] of Sheynblat et al (which the Examiner has cited as disclosing "mail creation means" of a communication terminal) merely describes generic features of a computer network such as the Internet. Paragraph [0113] of Sheynblat et al does not even remotely suggest originating electronic mail at position-detecting terminals, and paragraph

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[0113] of Sheynblat et al does not even mention the position detecting communication terminals. In addition, paragraph [0127] of Sheynblat et al merely discloses inputting position information via a web-based form, using a web-based form to request location-based information, or using indirect means to determine the position of the client. No mention is made of attaching position information to an electronic mail and transmitting the electronic mail with the position information attached thereto.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the web server of Sheynblat et al does not correspond to the service center of the claimed present invention.

According to the present invention as recited in claim 11, the storing means of the service center stores regional image information specific to positions of the terminal, and the regional image information comprises images specific to the positions of the terminal. When the electronic mail having the position information attached thereto is received at the service center, the reading means reads the regional image information from the storing means. The regional image information is attached to the electronic mail, and the electronic mail with the regional image information (which includes at least one of the stored images) attached thereto is transmitted to the addressee.

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The Examiner has asserted that compilation of graphical demographic and distribution information at the web server in Sheynblat et al corresponds to the service center of claim 11.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that even if the charts, graphs and maps referred to in paragraphs [0123] and [0129] of Sheynblat et al were considered to be regional image information, these charts and graphs are clearly not attached to an electronic mail as recited in claim 11. Indeed, as explained hereinabove, Sheynblat et al does not even disclose creating an electronic mail, and therefore clearly cannot possibly suggest attaching regional image information to an electronic mail at the electronic server.

Still further, it is respectfully pointed out that the graphs, charts and maps mentioned in paragraphs [0123] and [0129] of Sheynblat et al are intended for government, business and advertiser use, and that Sheynblat et al only mentions providing this information for access via the Internet by other users. However, no addressee or destination for this information is indicated at the client terminal. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Sheynblat et al clearly does not disclose, teach or even remotely suggest attaching regional image information to an electronic mail which is created at a communication terminal to be sent to an addressee, and transmitting the electronic mail with the regional image

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information (which includes at least one of the stored images) attached thereto to the addressee, as according to the present invention recited in amended independent claim 11.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 11 and claims 13-15, 21 and 22 depending therefrom clearly patentably distinguishes over Sheynblat et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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